



## Dereham Church of England Junior Academy

Headteacher: Mrs Kelly Scott

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21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 6 Pupils,

I would like to start by thanking you most sincerely for your support and patience during this time. As you know, before we could provide you with additional information about our plans, there were many things we needed to explore and work through before sharing this with you.

I feel I should also make you aware (in case you have another child in Y3,4 or 5) that if current guidance remains in place, we will NOT be opening to other year groups before the end of this term as there will not be enough staff or rooms available to use.

***These are challenging times for us all and whilst the list below is not exhaustive, I hope it provides enough information that will enable you to make a decision as to whether or not your child will return to school when we open to Y6 pupils.***

Please note, if you do not **initially** wish to send your child back to school, but may want to later in the half term, I cannot guarantee that a space will be available. Any new children would mean having to create a new 'bubble' and we can only provide this if there is enough staff available to do so.

Key information for returning Y6 pupils:

- Children in Y6 will be offered a space on a WEEKLY rota basis. This means they will have a full week in school followed by a week at home. There is an expectation your child will attend every day (5 full day) unless they are not well enough to do so.
- Once we open for Y6 children, they WILL NOT be able to mix between our Key Worker/Vulnerable children groups. Until this point, our current offer remains in place. Therefore, after 15<sup>th</sup> June (if this is our agreed date) if you are a keyworker and need your Y6 child to attend each week, they will need to remain on the keyworker rota and will not be able to be part of a Y6 group with their peers.
- Returning Y6 pupils will be split into small 'Learning Groups', often referred to in this letter as a 'Bubble'. Please note, a 'bubble' is a group of around 9-12 children led by 2 staff members.
- Your child will be in the same bubble each day when they are in school. They sit in the same places; be with the same pupils and have the same Teacher and TA every time they are in. These adults will **not** be working with any other group in school.
- Bubbles will NOT be able to mix with other bubbles! Staggered breaks and lunchtimes and separated zones outside will help maintain this.
- Members of each bubble will be decided by Year 6 staff, taking into consideration friendships as well as other factors such as staffing and other group members. Agreeing these groups cannot be completed until we know who will be attending school.
- Unless you can evidence you are a keyworker (employer information and shift/working patterns will be required), siblings of Y6 children will NOT be offered a space at the school as we have no capacity for this.



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- Start and end times to the school day will be staggered. These changes will be minimal (around 10 minutes), but are necessary in order to ensure children arrive safely to school and are not standing waiting to come in with large groups of children.
- The curriculum will not have a heavy academic focus. In Year 6, the curriculum content has been covered. As such, planning will focus on what staff feel is best for the children given the current circumstances and will adapt to how they feel upon their return. Personal, Social, Relationship and Health Education will be a key focus and there may be more project-based learning opportunities, as would be usual for Y6 in the last half term of school. There will also be a focus on learning outside as much as possible.
- Preparing your children for high school will also be at the forefront of our minds and, in turn, our provision. We are still awaiting information about transition from the High Schools (they are awaiting further Government guidance). It is likely this will be mostly, if not completely, undertaken virtually. Therefore, pupils who do not return, will not be at a disadvantage as they will be able to access this from home.
- Children will NOT be expected to wear school uniform. There are a number of reasons for this, including that for some children it will no longer fit! However, we will expect children to be in a clean set of clothes each day they are in school. There will be no changing of clothes in school, including for PE sessions.
- Classrooms have been set up to ensure that social distancing can be maintained (see photo for example).
- Specific toilets and basins will be allocated to pupils from each bubble. These will be clearly identified and staff will ensure pupils are aware of this.
- At lunchtime, your children will eat outside when possible. When they can't eat outside, they will eat in the hall. This will need to be on a separate sitting basis so that we can ensure children are seated 2m apart and tables and chairs cleaned before the next group enter. When – and we don't have a date for this as yet - the kitchen opens, initially a packed lunch will be the only option available.
- We will employ a one-way system in corridors to help maintain social distancing when children need to go to the toilet or move round school. Each Y6 class has an exit onto the field which will be used where possible.
- Clear expectations around hygiene including handwashing, cleaning of equipment and use of toilets will be communicated to pupils. Also, regular 'spot' cleaning will be conducted by staff throughout the day in addition to a thorough clean by our cleaners at the end of the school day. Staff will supervise handwashing routines the frequency of which will be increased.
- Children will not be able to bring bags to school. They will only require a coat (if needed), lunchbox (if required) and drinks bottle. All stationery will be provided and each child will have their own 'pack' of equipment to use. Cloakrooms will NOT be in use.
- PPE will be worn by staff if first aid is administered to your child or if your child becomes unwell.





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- If you plan to send your child back and they are classed as clinically vulnerable or extremely clinically vulnerable or lives with someone who falls into these categories, you will need to talk to us further. We will then be able to clarify what we can and cannot put in place to support their return.

We are currently in the process of translating all the information in our risk assessment into parent and child handbooks which will help clarify and summarise plans. As soon as these are complete, we will share them with you. However, in order to reach this point, we need to know how many and which pupils will be returning to school.

Please note, opening to our Y6 pupils will NOT begin until Week Beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest, providing risk assessments are approved by DNEAT. If guidance changes or all measures are not in place by this date, a later start date will be required. Until our Risk Assessment is fully completed and approved, we will NOT be able to provide you with a firm start date.

We also feel we must inform you that our Key Worker and Vulnerable group of children attending school must take priority over others. Therefore, if our number of these children needing to attend rose significantly, we may be unable to continue to offer Y6 bubbles a place at school. We would inform you of this as soon as we are able to.

Because so much of our work and organization depends on the numbers of Year 6 children we will have attending school on our return, we ask that you **complete the survey below** so we have as much information as possible.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2D6LLRN>

Kind Regards,

Mrs K. Scott  
Headteacher